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IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING  
OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES

Letter dated 25 May 1979 from the Permanent Representative of  
the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics to the United Nations  
addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit to you the text of the message of congratulation addressed by L. I. Brezhnev, General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union and Chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR, to the States and peoples of Africa on the occasion of African Liberation Day.

I should be grateful if you would have this message circulated as an official document of the General Assembly under item 18 of the preliminary list.

(Signed) O. TROYANOVSKY

\* Reissued for technical reasons.

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ANNEX

Message of congratulation to the States and peoples  
of Africa on the occasion of African Liberation Day

(Moscow, The Kremlin, 25 May 1979)

On behalf of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR, the Government of the Soviet Union and the Soviet people and on my own behalf, I extend heartfelt congratulations to the Governments and peoples of the African States on the occasion of African Liberation Day.

On this important day the Soviet people hail the successes of the African peoples in their struggle for the triumph of the ideals of freedom, independence and social progress and for the consolidation of the sovereignty and economic development of their States. In the Soviet Union great importance is attached to the consolidation and further development of relations of friendship and fruitful co-operation with the independent African countries.

The just struggle that the peoples of Africa, with the support of the progressive forces of the world, are waging for the complete and definitive elimination of the vestiges of the system of colonialism and racism has reached its final stage. The day is not far off when those shameful phenomena will disappear from the land of Africa forever.

The emergence of a free Africa is taking place in circumstances of sharp confrontation between the forces of national liberation and progress and the forces of imperialism and reaction which are striving to slow down that irreversible process and even to launch a counteroffensive. This is attested by the situation existing today in the southern part of the African continent, where the racists, with the support of imperialist circles, are making desperate efforts to break the will to victory of the patriots of Zimbabwe and Namibia, to impose puppet neo-colonialist régimes there, to secure their international recognition and to turn that region into a preserve of racism and oppression and a constant source of danger to independent Africa.

To frustrate the plots of the enemies of Africa is not only the task of the African peoples but also the duty of all people of goodwill. The Soviet Union unswervingly advocates the immediate implementation of the inalienable rights of the peoples of southern Africa to self-determination and independence, the transfer of full powers to the peoples of Zimbabwe and Namibia through their authentic representatives, the Patriotic Front and SWAPO, and the elimination of the shameful system of apartheid in South Africa. We resolutely condemn the manoeuvres of the neo-colonialists in southern Africa and the aggressive actions of the racists against the forces of national liberation and the neighbouring independent countries, and we support the demands for the application to the racist régimes of effective and comprehensive international sanctions in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations.

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Africa's unity continues, as in the past, to be a powerful weapon in the struggle against imperialism and colonialism. That is why the enemies of the peoples of Africa are trying to shatter that unity, to divide Africa into mutually hostile groupings and to divert the attention of its peoples from the solution of the urgent problems of national construction and pressing international problems. In these circumstances, the Organization of African Unity has an important role to play, both in developing good-neighbourly relations and mutually beneficial co-operation on the African continent and in uniting the efforts of the African countries in the struggle against imperialism, colonialism and racism.

The realization of the aspirations of the peoples of the African countries as well as of the countries of other continents, is possible only under conditions of lasting peace and international security, which requires sustained joint efforts by all peace-loving States and peoples. We welcome the efforts of the African countries, which are taking an active part in the work of the United Nations and playing an increasing and positive role in international affairs. The Soviet Union is consistently fighting for the deepening of détente and its extension to all parts of the world, and for the cessation of the arms race and the transition to genuine disarmament. An important step in that direction will be the forthcoming conclusion of a new agreement between the USSR and the United States on limitation of strategic offensive weapons.

I wish the peoples of the African countries new successes in the struggle for the early and complete liberation of the continent from colonialism and racism and for the implementation of the tasks of national development in conditions of lasting peace throughout the world.

L. BREZHNEV

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